Hunting-threat to wildlife

358. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hunting is the biggest threat to wildlife;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken, so far, to contain hunting; and

(c) the details of cases filed against hunters and poachers and number of persons convicted in Karnataka State during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Besides reduction and degradation of habitat, and man-animal conflict, hunting is one of the major threats to wildlife.

(b) The various steps taken to contain hunting of wildlife include

(1) State level:

(i) Special protection camps have been established inside the forests in several States.

(ii) State Wildlife Authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers of animal products and birds.

(2) National level:

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(iv) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(v) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) International level:

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

(c) The details of cases filed against hunters and poachers and the number of persons convicted in Karnataka during last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases booked	No. of persons convicted
1.	1997-1998	49	-
2.	1998-1999	44	1
3.	1999-2000	41	-
4.	2000-2001	19	-
5.	2001-2002	16	-

Fly-ash mandatory in construction

359. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to make the use of flyash mandatory in construction, road laying and reclamation within a specified areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the amendments made in the 1999 notification to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) A draft notification